



Recovery, Stability and Socio-economic Development in Libya Baladiyati Phase 2_Programme

Italian Cooperation Component T05-EUTF-NOA-LY-13 (T05.1849)

ANNUAL REPORT YEAR 1

10 June 2021 – 9 June 2022

Reference Number	T05-EUTF-NOA-LY-13 (T05.1849)	
Framework	EU Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of	
	irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa	
Beneficiary country	Libya	
Contracting Authority	European Union - EU	
Implementing Partner	Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)	
Period of execution	36 months	
Starting date	10/06/2021	
Annual reporting period	10/06/2021 - 9/06/2022	
Location of the Action	14 Municipalities in Southern Libya: AlKufra, Ribyana, Brak Alshati,	
	Sebha, Ghat/Tahala, Murzuq, Shwerif, Algatron, Ubari, Algarefa,	
	Algorda Ashshati, Shargya, Bent Baya, Darj-	
Contact person:	AICS Rome	





Geographical scope for Phase II







ABBREVIATIONS

AICS: Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

CfP: Call for Proposals

CSO: Civil Society Organization DoA: Description of the Action EC: European Commission EU: European Union

EUD: European Union Delegation to Libya

EUTF: European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular

migration and displaced persons in Africa

GNA: Libyan Government of National Accord **GNU:** Libyan Government of National Unity

INGO: International Non-Government Organization

MAECI-DGCS: Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation - Directorate

General for Development Cooperation **MoLG:** Libyan Ministry of Local Government **MoFA:** Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MoP: Libyan Ministry of Planning

PMU: AICS Programme Management Unit **UNDP:** United Nations Development Programme

UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund







TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABE	REVIATIONS	3
EXE	CUTIVE SUMMARY	5
1.	Context updates	7
2.	RSSD Baladyiati Phase 2: objectives and results to be achieved	
3.	Profiles of beneficiaries and target groups	10
4.	Institutional set-up and overall project organisation	11
5.	The Inception Phase	15
6.	Activities and results achieved	15
7.	Revised Logframe	26
8.	Revised workplan	26
9.	Assumptions and risks	27
10.	Synergies created with other programmes	32
ANN	IEXES	34





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarises the activities and results of the first twelve months of the 'Recovery, Stability and Socio-economic Development in Libya – Italian Cooperation Component' Phase 2. The EUR 16 million AICS Programme¹ is part of a wider action funded by the European Union implemented in partnership with UNDP and UNICEF with a EUR 26.2 million total budget.

The period covered by this report is from 10 June 2021 till 9 June 2022, including the inception phase that started with the signature of the Contribution Agreement on 9 June 2021 and ended on 31 March 2022 with the successful achievement of all its objectives, including the identification of priority interventions for the 14 target municipalities in southern Libya and the distribution of implementation responsibilities among the 3 Implementing Partners (IPs).

In the reporting period, the political situation in Libya was confirmed to be extremely volatile. The political elections scheduled on December 24 by the Government of National Unity (GNU) were formally postponed just a few days before the election day and then cancelled. In February the Tobruk-based House of Representatives appointed a new Prime Minister to form a new government. The refusal by the GNU Government to step aside has caused a situation with two de facto parallel governments and rising political tensions.

On the ground, the security situation has remained relatively stable despite the risks of armed confrontations between militias loyal to the two governments. However, southern Libya, where the programme will be focalised, is a particularly volatile political/security context, even more so under the current political divide with its rapidly shifting alliances impacting the operation landscape.

Nevertheless, the overall Action governance structure is well established and has proven resilient to external shocks caused by insecurity and instability in Libya, continuing its activities and coordination among members at Technical Committee and Technical Secretariat level. The organisation of a Steering Committee meeting was put on hold at the end of the inception phase in consideration of the very fluid political situation, but the members are ready to resume it in the next reporting period. Meanwhile, AICS is continuing its fruitful dialogue with the MOLG and the local authorities, primarily the municipal councils.

Building on the Baladiyati Phase 1 positive experience, AICS plans to mobilize INGOs to bridge the gap with local actors and expand the cooperation outreach. AICS has also mobilized an international inter-governmental organization, the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), with the aim of creating alternative livelihoods opportunities in the agro-food sector and contributing to the economic recovery in the target areas. Moreover, AICS is renewing the partnership with Voluntas Policy Advisory to ensure consistent third-party monitoring services, while continuing to co-operate closely with the EUTF Third-Party Monitoring entities.

This report details the activities and results achieved as well as the expenditures incurred under the following five key components of the programme:

Component 1 - Support to municipalities (Basic services – Agricultural livelihoods)

The Programme Management Unit (PMU) successfully identified the priority interventions aiming at improving basic services delivery in the fourteen target municipalities and prepared the Call for Proposals (CfPs) to select the INGOs that will implement them. The Call is under internal (AICS) and external (MoLG) review and is expected to be launched in July 2022. Moreover, a sub-delegation

5

¹ In this report, 'Action' refers to the entire EUTF initiative, with a EUR 26.2 million budget; while 'Programme' refers solely to the AICS component.



CUP: H99F18001050006



agreement was signed with a specialized international inter-governmental organization (CIHEAM), which will implement the Agricultural livelihoods sub-component of the Programme. CIHEAM launched its inception phase in March and is expected to finalise it at the end of June 2022.

Component 2 - Capacity building and technical assistance

This section includes an update on institutional capacity building carried out by AICS through the organisation of regular meetings with authorities at both central and local level. Moreover, AICS organised a high-profile Kick-Off meeting in Tripoli on 3 November 2021, with the presence of the Presidential Council vice-president, the Minister of Local Governance, the 14 Mayors, the EU Ambassador, the Ambassador of Italy,

and the AICS Regional Representative.

Component 3 - Programme Coordination and Management

During the reporting period, the Programme Management Unit (PMU) was strengthened and kept operating from its offices in Tripoli and Tunis. AICS confirmed the overall Action governance structure (Steering Committee, Technical Committee and Technical Secretariat) set up during Phase 1 and reinforced the collaboration with UNDP and UNICEF as implementing partners. Key achievements include the organization of one Steering Committee and five Technical Committees, in addition to several technical and operational meetings involving the institutional counterparts at the central and local levels, as well as the other two Action partners.

Component 4 – Communications and Visibility

AICS updated its Communication and Visibility Plan and continued to co-ordinate the Joint Communication Initiative, an integrated communication strategy incorporating the EU, UNDP, UNICEF, the Italian Embassy in Tripoli, AICS Regional Office and AICS Headquarter, including a blog with human interest stories, regular posting on the Baladiyati social media pages, and visibility around Action landmark events.

Component 5 - Monitoring and Evaluation

This component refers to the monitoring and evaluation arrangements agreed with the EU and includes the signature of a service contract with a Third-Party Monitoring provider that will refine and optimise ad hoc indicators, targets and additional monitoring tools to accurately inform operations management and regular reporting.

As of 9 June 2022, AICS was able to spend or commit 31,26 percent of the first pre-financing payment. As per art. 1.5 of the Special Conditions to Delegation Agreements, AICS will provide the management declaration and the audit or control opinion respectively no later than 9 August and 9 September 2022.

The present report includes the following Annexes:

- Annex 1: List of interventions and budgets by municipality
- Annex 2: Updated Logframe
- Annex 3: Updated Work plan
- Annex 4: Updated Communication and Visibility Plan
- Annex 5: Financial Report





1. Context updates

Political

Since the postponement of the elections at the end of 2021, uncertainty prevails over the political landscape, with concerns over the potential resumption or escalation of hostilities and violence. In February 2022, the Tobruk-based House of Representatives (HoR) appointed a new Prime Minister to form a new government. The newly established Government of National Stability (GNS), headed by Bashagha, received a vote of confidence from the HoR on 1 March 2022 through a contested process and was sworn in on 3 March in Tobruk. The refusal by the Government of National Unity (GNU) to step aside has caused a situation with two de facto parallel governments and rising political tensions.

On its part, UNSMIL has engaged both sides to develop a framework for national elections. On 21 March, UN Special Advisor to the Secretary General (UNSASG) Williams announced an initiative to form a joint committee from the HoR and the HSC to agree on a constitutional basis for elections. Three sessions were held in Cairo in mid-April, mid-May and mid-June and concluded on 20 June with agreement on 180 articles out of 221. However, key sticking points that remain unresolved reportedly include eligibility criteria of presidential candidates, the sequence of elections, the structure and nature of local government, provisions on transitional rules and the rights of various Libyan communities. Williams has referred to the heads of the HSC and HoR to meet in July to bridge the remaining issues.

Economic

The reporting period saw increasing politicisation of national resources and national economic institutions along with the effects of global economic pressures, with the closures of several oil fields and terminals by protests. This has led to a significant decrease in oil revenues although some facilities appear to be operating intermittently and there have been conflicting reports around the level of production.

A nationwide cash liquidity crisis is affecting cash withdrawal from banks causing limitations on banking transactions for both local population and humanitarian actors. The international community has continued engagements with the Central Bank of Libya regarding the issue, but no solution has been found as yet. Concurrently, the beginning of the crisis in Ukraine led to global price increases for basic commodities, whereby in Libya, the price of wheat flour rose by 15 % and the Monthly Expenditure Basket by 32 %. The increase in prices raised general concerns on food insecurity and the ability of affected populations to afford food staples, which may lead some to adopting negative coping strategies.

Security

The reporting period saw increased tensions and clashes in and around Tripoli. Tensions have increased in the west as armed groups have mobilised across the region, in support of the GNS or the GNU. On 10 March, armed groups supporting Bashagha moving from Misrata towards Tripoli eventually turned back after a standoff with armed group supporting Dbeibah. Early on 17 May, Bashagha entered Tripoli facilitated by an armed group but later retreated from the city following clashes with armed groups supporting Dbeibah. On 10 June, clashes erupted again in Tripoli between the same two-armed groups supporting each side in a crowded park with civilians fleeing the area. Armed groups supporting both sides are reportedly still mobilised in and around Tripoli, including from Zintan.

No mobilisation nor military activity has taken place around previous frontlines, around Sirte and Jufra and several meetings of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) have been held, the last ones in Spain in May and Tunis and Cairo in June.





Humanitarian

Bureaucratic restrictions on the movement of humanitarian staff remains the main impediment to humanitarian work, as partners continue to face challenges to sustain their presence on the ground due to the short validity of the entry permits. However, the visa situation has hugely improved during the first half of 2022.

According to the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) - Libya 2022, the number of people internally displaced is steadily decreasing, while most returnees, around 98 per cent, returned to their places of origin due to the improved security situation, highlighting the will of Libyans to rebuild their lives and communities.

Although the humanitarian situation for the Libyan population is improving, for non-Libyans, such as migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, the situation is further deteriorating. Forced evictions and widespread security operations targeting migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers during the latter part of 2021 into the beginning of 2022 led to the arrest of several thousand individuals, resulting in the separation of families, and causing most to go into hiding.

2. RSSD Baladyiati Phase 2: objectives and results to be achieved

The Programme 'Recovery, Stability and Socio-economic Development in Libya – Baladiyati' is funded by the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa – North Africa Window.

The Action Phase 2 has a EUR 26.2 million budget, of which EUR 16 million assigned to AICS,

AICS signed the Contribution Agreement with the EU on 9 June 2021. A subsequent internal decree No. 21822 on 30 July 2021 delegated the management responsibility from the AICS Rome Director to the AICS Regional Representative for Tunisia, Libya, Morocco and Algeria.

The <u>Action's overall objective</u> is to contribute to improving the living conditions and resilience of local communities, migrants, refugees, IDPs and returnees, in line with Priority Action IV and Strategic Objective IV of the EUTF – NOA: "To foster a more inclusive social and economic environment and stability in the region".

This will be achieved by implementing three interlinked specific objectives that aim to:

- SO1. Contribute to improving basic services delivery (notably education, WASH, sustainable
 energy, as well as facilities for social cohesion at community level) in line with EUTF NOA
 Specific Objective 4.VI. "Factors affecting social exclusion, social marginalization, genderinequality and discrimination are prevented and mitigated";
- SO2. Contribute to creating livelihoods opportunities for local communities, including for migrants – in line with EUTF NOA Specific Objective 4. IV. "Economic and equal opportunities are enhanced, in particular for vulnerable groups";
- SO3. Contribute to prevention/mitigation of conflicts, encourage reconciliation and strengthen social cohesion – in line with EUTF NOA Specific Objective 4.VII. "Stability and recovery of local communities, including migrant populations on the move and returnees, is progressively enhanced, most notably in conflict or post-conflict areas".

The Results/Outputs of this specific AICS Action are as follows:



CUP: H99F18001050006



- 1. Provision of basic services at local level is enhanced (*link to SOI*) through:
 - 1.1 Capacity in technical and managerial skills towards enhancing the provision of basic services at local level for the most vulnerable groups, including host communities, IDPs and returnees, migrants and refugees is built;
 - 1.2 New/rehabilitated infrastructure and better equipment in beneficiary institutions towards enhancing the provision of basic services at local level for the most vulnerable groups, including host communities, IDPs and returnees, migrants and refugees.
- 2. Income generating activities and/or entrepreneurship community initiatives are identified and developed (link to SO2) through:
 - 2.1 Individual income generating activities in the agro-food sector identified and strengthened;
 - 2.2 Business development infrastructure supported, tools developed, and staff trained on local agro-food sector development.
- 3. Increased awareness of inclusive access to basic services and agro-food livelihoods opportunities among the general public in target municipalities (link to SO1 and SO2).
- 4. The RSSD 2 governance mechanisms are established and operationalized.
- 5. RSSD 2 is delivered as programme with key coordination, management and monitoring processes/mechanisms in place.

Sustainability

In line with AICS programming for Libya, Baladiyati approach places communities and local service providers at the centre of the response. The proposed Action has been designed in close coordination with the implementing partners, government institutions at central and local level as well as representatives of the beneficiary communities, starting from the planning phase, in order to ensure effectiveness and sustainability in the medium - long term. More in detail:

- Institutional sustainability The design of the Programme aims at building ownership over the project outcomes by the relevant line ministries, local authorities, frontline service providers, and beneficiaries (local communities, IDPs and migrants). Programme priorities have been determined together with each of the 14 target municipalities and will be implemented with and through municipal stakeholders. The interventions are implemented in close cooperation with municipalities and local communities as end beneficiaries of the Programme, along all stages of the activities, ensuring full ownership. Municipalities will be consulted throughout the implementation of the Programme, which will include amongst others facilitation of access of municipal staff to the intervention sites and sharing of relevant documentation throughout the process. The capacity building and technical assistance that are provided through the Programme are aimed to strengthen local capacities to ensure results that can be sustained and further scaled up as needed beyond the project duration. Over the course of the Action, basic service providers will benefit of trainings, capacity building activities and awareness campaigns, ensuring that they will have the technical capacity to maintain infrastructure investments after the finalization of the activities. Those providers are civil servants who are expected to continue working in the public sector. They will be able to share knowledge and technical skills gained through this Action also in case they are assigned to other facilities. Both the infrastructure upgrading and capacity building that will be provided by the Programme aim to increase the efficiency of the municipal service delivery - and thereby resilience to be better able to sustain and respond to an increase in demand for municipal services - for current and future crises:
- Fair and inclusive access to basic services By upgrading public infrastructure with rehabilitation works and provision of equipment, the access to basic services for local population including IDPs, migrants, returnees and other vulnerable groups will improve; the





Programme will advocate for inclusive service delivery within the selected facilities, fostering a climate of respect and mutual acceptance among communities and between basic service users and providers that will persist at the community level beyond the duration of the Action. The Action will use the experience of other community bodies such as women's or youth groups, who are often best placed to assess the actual needs and perceptions. Partnerships will lead to ownership and sustainable development through transfer of expertise and knowledge. Depending on the area of intervention, local CSOs when present will be included in training opportunities and actively engaged in awareness activities;

- Environmental sustainability Overall, the Programme has a direct impact on environmental sustainability, through improved waste management capacities as well as use of renewable energy technology in the public rehabilitation interventions, which will ensure the promotion of sustainable practices in the target areas, providing long-lasting source of electricity, improving energy efficiency and guaranteeing more stable services (i.e. in health care buildings and water & sanitation infrastructure). Through the Agricultural livelihoods sub-component, the Programme will introduce sustainable practices for a rational use of irrigation water for increasing soil fertility and protection of agro biodiversity. Dissemination of these practices on larger scale will be supportive for protection of natural resources. Specifically, as far as agriculture inputs are concerned, low environmental impact choices will be adopted in order to reduce as much as possible the use of fertilisers and pesticides and taking benefit of local unused bio masses. Use of non-recyclable plastics will be reduced as much as possible;
- Social sustainability It will be ensured by including local communities and informal local actors in project activities (e.g., identification and prioritization of interventions at the local level). Informal community leaders, such as tribal leaders, wise men, religious leaders and others play a growing role in public affairs, particularly in terms of addressing disputes and insecurity. By recognizing the importance of including these actors, the project intends to strengthen this process in order to nurture resilience and recovery. The Action may make use of existing relationships that implementing partners have in place with local CSOs and NGOs.

3. Profiles of beneficiaries and target groups

<u>Direct beneficiaries</u>: the segments of population including the vulnerable groups accessing and using the upgraded public infrastructure. The fourteen target municipalities are particularly affected by the migration phenomenon, thus improved access to basic services is expected to benefit migrants as a specific vulnerable group. Social inclusion will be at the centre of the programme, promoting gender and social/migration status equality and inter-communal dialogue. In addition, increased alternative and complementary livelihood opportunities will benefit youth, women and men in the targeted municipalities. The baseline survey, aimed at defining the exact number and profile of direct beneficiaries, will be implemented by the INGOs that will be selected through CfPs, by CIHEAM Bari and by the Third Party Monitoring provider, once the service contract is awarded.

The final number of individual beneficiaries will depend on:

- a) the basic service sector (i.e. education, WASH, sustainable energy), the type of facility prioritized for rehabilitation and the outreach or scale of use of the facilities;
- b) the engagement of actors in the agro-food sector both beneficiaries of direct livelihood interventions and indirect impact on the value chains;
- c) the enrollment of staff from local authorities/administration, CSOs and private sector actors in training activities.

<u>Indirect beneficiaries</u>: it is envisaged that the empowerment of social infrastructures and services will indirectly benefit the entire population in the fourteen municipalities - estimated at over 600,000 individuals according to existing demographic data.





CUP: H99F18001050006

The programme will be accountable to the affected population at every stage. In fact, the population has been involved since the project design through the realization of technical need assessments. These assessments, together with the provision of other consultation systems, will also be carried out during project implementation, ensuring consultative participation processes. The involvement of the population is envisaged as an empowerment process and will be declined as much as possible during the course of the action.

Target Group: National and local institutional counterparts in Libya. Municipality councillors and staff at managerial and technical levels, staff and volunteers at local civil society organisations will continue to gain invaluable capacity development, decision-making skills, increased partnerships and resource management through their contribution to the Action objectives and results. In addition, line Ministries and state agency representatives of the decentralised Executive Offices (EOs) - in particular education, water, sewage and sanitation counterparts - are benefiting from direct involvement in the project implementation through access to technical consultations, capacity building, skills empowerment and programme ownership.

4. Institutional set-up and overall project organisation

In continuity with Baladiyati Phase 1, AICS plays a leading role in the Action governance structure, consisting of a Steering Committee, a Technical Committee and a Technical Secretariat composed by representatives of the EU Delegation, the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), the Ministry of Planning (MoP), UNDP, UNICEF, AICS and the Italian Embassy.

The Steering Committee (ST) is the policy making body for the timely end effective implementation of the Action. Its overall responsibilities are to provide policy guidance at a national and local level; ensure transparency, accountability and efficiency; build a consensus around the Action's initiatives and planned results.

The Technical Committee (TC) is the technical advisory body for the timely and effective implementation of the Action. Its overall responsibilities are to provide (upstream) technical advice to the Steering Committee with the aim of informing their policy decisions, as well as (downstream) technical guidance to the Technical Secretariat and the implementing partners for the implementation of SCs' decisions.

While the Steering Committee has a formal decision making mandate and the Technical Committee an advisory role, the Technical Secretariat (TS) is an operational body which is intended to: i) conduct negotiations with Libyan Authorities on priority interventions; ii) prepare the submission of relevant documents to the Steering and Technical Committees - including technical profiles of the proposed interventions - and monitoring/progress reports; iii) perform the tasks as a secretariat to the two Committees, including the drafting of documents and minutes of meetings; and iv) facilitate interstakeholder consultations and communication as required.

During the reporting period, one Steering Committee meeting was held on 15 June 2021 and approved the Phase 2 geographic coverage, programmatic scope/sectors, budget and launching. Five Technical Committee meetings were held respectively on 16 August, 9 September, 8 November 2021, and on 7 February and 2 March 2022 to define the steps and identify the specific interventions to be implemented in each municipality, as well as the attribution of responsibilities of each implementing partner. The Technical Committee held in March 2022 endorsed all the Baladiyati RSSD Phase 2 inception documents, including the final list and budget of the municipal interventions. More details are provided in the Paragraph 6 "Activities and results achieved".





The Project Team

The Programme Management Unit (PMU) operates from two offices, one in Tripoli and one in Tunis, both equipped and staffed to full capacity. Coordination between the Tripoli and Tunis offices has been consolidated through regular audio and video conferences, Tunis PMU staff missions to Tripoli and Tripoli staff visits to Tunis, and frequent field visits by the PMU national staff - despite the volatile situation in Libya.

Besides the direct responsibility for the timely implementation of the AICS component, the PMU proactively contributes to the overall Action governance structure and closely coordinates at technical and operational levels with UNDP, UNICEF and the EU Delegation to Libya for the successful implementation of the respective components.

The PMU operational, coordination and supervision tasks include:

- a) Management of the AICS component:
 - Support to Municipalities (Basic Services + Agricultural Livelihoods): operated by INGOs partners, CIHEAM Bari and service providers contracted according to AICS's procedures aligned with PRAG;
 - Capacity Building and Technical Assistance: supported by short-term consultancies for a total of 6 p/m over the entire Programme's duration;
 - Monitoring and reporting: internal (AICS procedures) and external (EU procedures);
 - Communication and visibility activities, according to the Plan approved by the EU;
 - Administrative and financial tasks;
- b) Support to the overall Action:
 - Coordination and support to the Action governance structure: Technical Secretariat's activities, planning and organisation of the Steering/Technical Committees, follow-up to meetings and events, joint reporting;
 - Joint Communication and Visibility Component: including the coordination of the Joint Communication Initiative (JCI) in partnership with UNICEF and UNDP and in coordination with the EU and the Embassy of Italy in Libya.

The PMU for RSSD Baladyiati Phase 2 includes the following staff:

International personnel:

- i) a Team Leader/Programme Technical Coordinator;
- ii) a Deputy Team Leader;
- iii) a Programme Officer (Operations);
- iv) a Programme Officer (Monitoring & Evaluation);
- v) a Programme Officer (Coordination of Technical Secretariat);
- vi) a Programme Officer (Information Management);
- vii) an Administrative and Financial Manager;
- viii) an Administration/Procurement Officer;
- ix) a Communications Officer.

National personnel:

- i) a Senior Programme Officer;
- ii) a Programme Officer;
- iii) an Operations/Logistic Assistant;
- iv) a Liaison/Communication Assistant;







This project is funded by the European Union

- v) a Liaison Assistant/Secretary;
- vi) an Office Security/Maintenance Operator;
- vii) a National Operations Associate based in Tunis.

International and national short-term consultants will be mobilized as required.

The Deputy Team Leader, the Administration/Procurement Officer and the Programme Officer for the Technical Secretariat have been recruited during the inception period. Their contracts started respectively in November 2021, in February and in May 2022. In April 2022, the Team Leader has phased out and its role and responsibilities have been transferred to the Deputy Team Leader. A five-months-handover has ensured a smooth transition and continuity in the programme's activities.

The international staff is currently based in Tunis, implementing short missions in Tripoli. However, AICS is planning to have the Team Leader and other PMU key staff in Tripoli soon to ensure a continued presence in the country. In particular, the return of the Team Leader to Tripoli has been delayed due to problems of different nature, including the renewal of her visa and some security constraints, but AICS is striving for guaranteeing that she can be back to Tripoli shortly.

As currently the PMU of RSSD Baladyiati Phase 1 has been assisting in the implementation of Phase 2 and some positions are in cost-sharing, the rest of the local and international personnel will be gradually shifting to Phase 2 during the next reporting period. Similarly, some project office costs are shared between the extended Phase 1 and Phase 2 budgets. These cost-sharing arrangements generate budget savings that will be reallocated to other budget lines as deemed appropriate, allowing efficient use of resources for the benefit of Phase 2.

The allocation of the costs of the PMU between the budget of Phase 1 and Phase 2 is explained in the staffing plan here below:





			RSSD PHASE 2	- 36 MONTHS	
	,,,,,	5000	2	5000	ארטר
STAFFING PLAN		707	77	2023	
	Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	n Feb Mar Apr May Jun	Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov	Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan F	_
PMU International Staff	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	8 9 10 11 12 13	13 14 15 10 10 11 1	18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 3.	33 34 35 30
Team Leader	phase 1 budget cost share phase 2 @ 50%	2 @ 50%		phase 2 budget →	
Senior Programme Officer/Deputy TL	phase 2 budget →	→ cost share phase 2 @ 70%	se 2 @ 70%		
Programme Associate/Officer (Operations)	phas	phase 1 budget		phase 2 budget →	
Programme Associate (Monitoring, Evaluation)*	phase 1 budget	et	phase 2 budget →		
Administrative and Financial Manager	phase 1 budget	cost share phase 2 @ 50%	pha	phase 2 budget →	
Administration/Procurement Officer		phase 2 budget →			
PMU National Staff Libya					
Operation/Logistic Assistant	phase 1 budget	et	phase 2 budget →		
Liaison Assistant/Secretary	phase 1 budget	et	phase 2 budget →		
Programme Officer			phase 2 budget →		
Office Security/Maintenance	phase 1 budget	et	phase 2 budget →		
PMU National Staff Tunis					
Operations Associate	phase 1 budget	et	phase 2 budget →		
Tecnical Secretariat International Staff					
Programme Officer/Information management			phase 2 budget →		
Programme Officer/Coordination		phase 2 budget →	t →		
Communications Officer **	phase 1 budget	et	phase 2 budget →		
Tecnical Secretariat National Staff Libya					
Senior Programme Officer	phase 1 budget	et	phase 2 budget →		
Liaison/Communications Assistant **	phase 1 budget	et	phase 2 budget →		
Focal Points (5 full-time equivalent positions to cover 14 Municinalities)			phase 2 budget →		





5. The Inception Phase

The inception phase of the Programme started after the signature of the Contribution Agreement on 9 June 2021 and was supposed to end on 31 December 2021. In line with the Document of Action (DoA), the inception phase aimed to: i) hold the first Steering Committee meeting and receive its endorsement on the municipalities and sectors of intervention proposed in the DoA; ii) identify and assess the priority interventions to be implemented in the target municipalities by the three Implementing Partners (IPs); iii) negotiate and sign the sub-delegation agreement with the CIHEAM Bari for the implementation of the Agricultural Livelihoods sub-component of the Programme; iv) refine and update Work Plan, Logical framework and Visibility and Communication Plan according to the needs emerged during the inception phase and in coordination with the other Implementing Partners (IPs).

During the Technical Committee Meeting n. 15 held on 07 February 2022 the IPs, along with the EU and MoLG agreed on a three-month extension of the inception phase till 31 March 2022 in order to finalise the technical assessment of the priority interventions identified in the target municipalities. The delay was mainly due to the following reasons:

- 1) armed and inter-communal conflict in the southern regions limited the access to some areas and delayed some of the field visits;
- 2) the dialogue with the local authorities and communities in the six new municipalities of RSSD Baladiyati Phase 2 required engaging with new political and administrative entities, which implied a lengthy trust-building and consultation process;
- 3) the need to plan and coordinate among the IPs in order to conduct joint technical assessment, avoid overlapping and strengthen synergies and complementarities of the respective interventions in the municipalities where activities converge;
- 4) the technical field visits conducted by external consultants were finalised in December 2021, but additional time was required for the production, translation and internal approval of their reports by AICS;
- 5) the provisional list of activities and budget for each municipality submitted by the consultants needed to be fine-tuned and crosschecked with those implemented by other programmes in order to avoid overlapping and duplications;
- 6) the final list of interventions and budget of the three IPs for each target municipality required to be discussed by the governing bodies of the Action; five Technical Committees have been held before their final approval in March 2022.

The extension was approved by the EU and the inception phase ended with the successful achievement of all its objectives, including the identification of priority interventions for the 14 target municipalities in southern Libya and the distribution of implementation responsibilities among the 3 IPs. An inception report was submitted to the EU on 14 May 2022.

6. Activities and results achieved

The activities and results achieved in the first twelve months of implementation (10 June 2021- 09 June 2022) are summarised here below under the five main components of the Programme, as presented in the Work Plan as well as in the Budget, allowing for cross-analyses with the Financial Report.

Component 1 - Support to municipalities (Basic services - Agricultural livelihoods)

The activities financed under this component have an allocation of approx. EUR 10 million budget – i.e., 63% of the total budget – out of which:



CUP: H99F18001050006



- Basic Services sub-component: the entire EUR 5.3 million budget is earmarked to solar energy, education and water and sanitation activities. Technical need assessments to select basic and social service facilities and priority interventions have already been conducted, and INGOs will be requested to implement project activities against identified targets. A Call for Proposals is expected to be launched in July 2022;
- Agricultural Livelihoods sub-component: for this EUR 4.7 million sub-component, during the inception period AICS signed a sub-delegation agreement with a specialized international intergovernmental organization (CIHEAM) that delivers unique sector expertise. AICS will also award grants to INGOs to support the economic recovery through the promotion of livelihoods activities in the agro-food sector. The related Call for Proposals is expected to be launched in the fourth quarter of 2022 and will be based on need assessments performed by specialized agencies (FAO, WFP, OCHA, etc.) and CIHEAM.

Regarding the Basic Services sub-component, the Steering Committee held in June 2021 approved the target municipalities and the sectors of intervention proposed in the DoA and previously agreed with the EU and the MoLG. Subsequently, the three IPs launched a consultation process with the central and local authorities as well as with the local communities in order to identify the priority interventions to be implemented at municipal level. The final list of interventions was prepared by the Technical Secretariat and was reviewed and endorsed by the Technical Committee in March 2022, as described more in detail in the sub-paragraph "Programme Management and coordination".

Based on the final list of approved interventions, the PMU prepared the dossier to launch an open Call for Proposals following PRAG procedures, which is currently under internal (AICS) and external (MoLG) review and is expected to be published in July.

The main objective of the Call is to contribute to improving basic services delivery (notably in education, WASH and sustainable energy sectors), whilst the specific objectives are:

- (i) To upgrade basic service facilities through supply of equipment and rehabilitation/maintenance works;
- To strengthen technical and managerial capacities of relevant basic services providers' (ii) personnel;
- (iii) To raise awareness among the target population on inclusive access to basic services.

The overall indicative amount made available under the Call is EUR 5.340.000 and will be allocated in three lots according to the geographical coverage. Tentatively three grants will be awarded, one for each lot; the initial planned duration of each project may not be less than 12 months and may not exceed 14 months.

The indicative list of priority interventions identified in each target municipality, as approved by the programme governing bodies, will be provided in the guidelines for Applicants. However, once the partners will be contracted, it will be essential for INGOs to proceed with a rapid assessment in the target locations in order to verify that the needs have not changed since the technical assessment carried out by AICS during the inception period and that the interventions are still considered a priority by the local authorities and communities (including migrants and IDPs). Security, access, technical and economic feasibility will be assessed as well.

The selection process is expected to end in November 2022, and the activities to be launched by the awarded INGOs in January 2023, three months later than what was initially foreseen in the Work Plan attached to the DoA. The delay is in line with the extension of the inception phase requested by the three IPs and approved by the EU.





roject is funded CUP: H99F18001050006

Regarding the **Agricultural Livelihoods sub-component**, CIHEAM Bari is AICS' main implementing partner. This choice is based on the following criteria: presence on the ground, operational capacity, specialised technical approaches, methodologies and tools, unique expertise and exclusive mandate. During the reporting period, AICS and CIHEAM Bari negotiated a EUR 3.3 million sub-delegation agreement as foreseen by the DoA; the agreement was signed by AICS Deputy Director on 18 March 2022 according to AICS internal procedures for grants to International Organizations and in line with provisions from previous agreements between the two organizations. Subsequently, CIHEAM Bari launched a three-months inception phase that is expected to be finalised in mid-June 2022.

The sub-action is meant to complement and expand Italy's support to the agricultural sector in the Fezzan region, in partnership with MoLG and local authorities, by ensuring synergies with the on-going bilateral "Project for food security and resilience of rural communities in Libya" (PROSAR) funded by Italy. Due to the delayed signature of PROSAR's MoU with the Ministry of Agriculture, also the signature of the sub-delegation agreement between AICS and CIHEAM Bari was delayed and only finalized in March 2022. In consultation with the EU and the MOLG, it was deemed appropriate in Baladiyati Phase 2 to proceed without the direct involvement of the Ministry of Agriculture among the actors of the governance structure.

As a consequence of this delay, the duration of the activities sub-delegated to CIHEAM BARI will last 27 instead of 33 months. The budget was reduced accordingly, from approximately EUR 3.7 million to 3.3 million. The activities will target 4 municipalities in the mantikas of Murzuk and Ubari, alongside 6 additional municipalities in the mantikas of Al Khofra, Ghat, Wadi Ahshati, Al Jabal, Al Gharbi and Nalut in southern Libya. The sub-action aims to stimulate a process of economic recovery in the target municipalities focusing on the agro-food sector. This will be achieved by:

- a) setting up and equipping municipal service centres providing farmers and livestock producers with access to improved inputs, technical advice, financial and marketing services;
- b) building the capacities of the municipal technical staff to formulate and implement local economic recovery/development strategies;
- c) providing small soft loans to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the agro-food sector whilst developing their capacities to grow.

With a goal of enhancing self-reliance and livelihood stabilization for vulnerable and marginalized groups, the sub-action will finally support local academia, as well as vocational and skills training institutions to conduct skills profiling of target groups (i.e., host communities – including IDPs and returnees – migrants and refugees with a focus on youth and women) and increase their enrolment in vocational/skills development programmes in the agro-food sector. This activity is directly linked to MSMEs growth/creation support whereby trained jobseekers might be offered access to livelihoods and jobs opportunities in the newly created, restored and/or expanded agro-food business enterprises. Specific areas of vocational training will be considered according to the results of the baseline survey that CIHEAM will carry out during the first six months of its activities in order to ensure the matching between trained persons and manpower needs/employment opportunities offered by the private sector.

During the reporting period, AICS held numerous meetings both in person and online with CIHEAM, constantly keeping a channel of communication open with the organization and ensuring both technical programmatic and administrative procedural support to ensure effective start-up of activities, compliance with both PRAGs and AICS procedures, and agreement on the templates to be used for reporting and monitoring of activities.

For the agro-food sector, a second implementation modality will be the launch of a Call for Proposal to select INGOs operating in Libya with expertise in the agriculture and livelihoods sector. As already mentioned, the Call will be launched in the fourth quarter of 2022 and will take into consideration need



CUP: H99F18001050006



assessments and studies performed by specialized agencies (FAO, WFP, OCHA, etc.) and CIHEAM and will be based on technical consultations with the MOLG and agriculture experts in the South. The expected date for the launch of the activities on the field is in the first quarter of 2023, in line with the Work Plan attached in the DoA.

Component 2 - Capacity building and technical assistance

The activities financed under this component include institutional capacity building, technical assistance, as well as training workshops and will be carried out under AICS direct management mainly through the acquisition of consultancy and logistics services (with an allocation of approx. EUR 201.500 - 1,25% of the total budget).

In the reporting period, the PMU ensured a smooth flow of capacity building activities and technical assistance during several meetings held with representatives of the MoLG as well as of the 14 municipalities (kick-off meetings, follow-up meetings). In addition to the bilateral activities of the PMU, the Technical Secretariat also held numerous consultations and meetings with the central and local Libyan authorities. Overall, these meetings were opportunities to strengthen the knowledge of local authorities about the functioning and management of EU-funded programmes carried out by the international agencies present in Libya.

On 3 November 2021, AICS organised a high-profile Kick-Off meeting in Tripoli with the presence of the Presidential Council vice-president, the Minister of Local Governance, the 14 Mayors, the EU Ambassador, the Ambassador of Italy,

and the AICS Regional Representative. The event gave the institutional representatives the opportunity to meet and discuss objectives and plans towards strengthened cooperation in the South of Libva.

In March 2022, AICS launched a competitive tender procedure, following appropriate market surveys and according to PRAG procedures, in order to select a Libyan company for the provision of logistics organization services (service trips, meetings and events), which will include the transport of staff and participants in events, the booking of hotel facilities and conference rooms, interpreting service and rental of videoconferencing equipment, etc. The contract will be awarded at the end of June 2022.

AICS initially planned to launch the first training activities for municipal staff at the end of the first year of the Programme but decided to postpone them to the next reporting period in order to align with the beginning of the municipal projects to be implemented by the INGOs, which include a capacity building component. This will allow for a better coordination and complementarity in the trainings proposed to the staff of the local authorities by AICS and the INGOs, focusing on the needs to be identified in the target areas (e.g. strategic communication, solid waste management, renewable energy, rationalisation of the use of water resources, etc). Synergies and coordination with other Programmes implemented by international actors will be also ensured to avoid overlapping and duplication, as already done in Baladiyati Phase 1.

Component 3 - Programme Coordination and Management

The activities financed under this component have an allocation of approx. EUR 3.9 million budget – i.e. 25,5 % of the total budget and refer to the Programme Management Unit (see Paragraph 4.1 "The project Team") and to the Programme Governance Structure. The sub-activities of the latter include, in line with the Work Plan:

- Set up and functioning of the Action governance structure
- Field assessment and consultations with local authorities and communities
- Endorsement and adoption of interventions 14 Municipalities



ITALIAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

 Monitoring and reporting on the Programme activities to the Technical and Steering Committees

AICS confirmed and continued to play a lead role in the overall Action governance structure (Steering Committee, Technical Committee and Technical Secretariat) set up during Phase 1. During the reporting period, one Steering Committee meeting (the fourth of the Phase 1 and the first of the Phase 2 of the Action, as the agenda included both phases' items) was held in Tripoli on 15 June 2021. Its main objective was to endorse the Phase 2 geographic coverage, programmatic scope/sectors, budget and launching, as described in the DoA approved by the EU; it was held right after signing the contribution agreements by the three IPs and the EU in order to allow the activities to start as soon as possible.

Based on the respective budget allocations, AICS committed to providing assistance in 14 municipalities,

In the below table shows the 3 less respective municipality coverage.

Municipality	Implementing Partner(s)	
ALKUFRA	AICS + UNDP + UNICEF	
BRAK ALSHATI	AICS + UNDP + UNICEF	
SEBHA	AICS + UNDP + UNICEF	
UBARI	AICS + UNDP + UNICEF	
GHAT/TAHALA	AICS + UNICEF	
MURZUQ	AICS + UNDP	
ALGHAREIFA	AICS	
ALGORDA	AICS	
SHARGYA	AICS	
BENT BAYA	AICS	
ALGATRON	AICS	
DARJ	AICS	
SHWERIF	AICS	
RIBYANA	AICS	

The selection of the 14 municipalities was the result of a negotiation between the three IPs, the EU and the MoLG prior to the approval of the Action by the EU, and which was conducted during RSSD Phase 1 also through the governing bodies of the Action: the Technical Committee n. 10, held in January 2021, introduced the discussion on the second Phase of RSSD Programme and on the target areas of intervention. The Committee endorsed the decision to focus on the municipalities of southern Libya rather than covering all three regions, in view of the enormous needs of the Fezzan and the importance to stabilize that vast region bordering several sub-Saharan countries. Eight municipalities already covered by RSSD Phase 1 were targeted and six new ones added, selected in coordination with the EU and the Ministry of Local Governance (MoLG) based on the following criteria: (i) municipalities largely excluded from donor funding; (ii) municipalities with newly elected municipal councils; (iii) locations presenting a higher economic development potential; (iv) security and accessibility; (v) presence of migrant and IDP communities.

Based on the endorsement of the target municipalities and the sectors of intervention by the Steering Committee in June 2021, AICS, UNDP and UNICEF launched the consultations to identify the priority interventions to be implemented at municipal level. Those included:



CUP: H99F18001050006



- Consultation meetings with the Libyan authorities: at the central level, AICS organised several
 meetings with MoLG staff assigned to the Action and the mayors. At the municipality level,
 numerous consultations took place in Tripoli and at the local level to present the Action, build
 consensus over its scope and prioritise interventions, including the newly established municipalities
 within the Action area;
- Consultation with local communities: Participatory consultations with local communities on priority interventions have been conducted by the three IPs together in Al Kufra, Brak AlShati, Sebha, Ubari and Murzuq Just to give an example, in Ubari the following local stakeholders were involved: Ubari Municipal Council, Ubari Social Council, Ubari Youth Organization, Mukhtar Mahala (4 areas), Tebu Association Council, Tawarg Social Council, Women Union Organization. In the municipalities where AICS works alone, the participatory consultations have been led by the municipal councils in collaboration with AICS PMU staff based in Tripoli and the short-term consultants hired for implementing the technical assessments. Migrants have not been directly consulted at this stage; instead, local civil society organizations have been involved in the identification process to ensure that the proposed interventions address the needs of the vulnerable groups, including migrants. Migrant communities will be directly consulted and involved in the programme's activities at a later stage, during the assessment that the INGOs will conduct prior to the implementation phase: the priority interventions identified in the inception phase are indicative and will be cross-checked by the INGOs with the local authorities, civil society organizations, local communities and above all with the vulnerable groups in order to confirm their relevance. Moreover, AICS Third Party Monitoring provider, Voluntas, will involve migrants, IDPs and returnees in the data collection, measuring their perception and acceptance of the proposed interventions at municipal level;
- Field visits: AICS international and national staff in Tripoli held numerous formal and informal meetings with counterparts. National staff and local consultants completed technical missions to all the 14 target municipalities. During the inception phase, AICS, UNDP and UNICEF have been closely cooperating to conduct the technical assessments, including conflict sensitivity analysis and municipality profiling, to define the priority interventions in collaboration with the local authorities, the local communities and in coordination with the central authorities. The table below shows AICS field missions conducted by local consultants:

Municipality	Starting Date	Ending Date	Duration
Sebha-Tripoli -Sebha	October 3, 2021	October 4, 2021	2 Days
Ubari	October 8, 2021	October 9, 2021	2 Days
Brak Al Shati	October 10, 2021	October 11, 2021	2 Days
Sebha	October 13, 2021	October 14, 2021	2 Days
AlGarefa	October 17, 2021	October 17, 2021	1 Day
Murzuq	October 30, 2021	October 31, 2021	2 Days
AlGarefa	November 21, 2021	November 25, 2021	5 Days
Bent Beya	December 1, 2021	December 5, 2021	5 Days
Ubari	December 27, 2021	January 2, 2022	5 Days
Ghat	December 13, 2021	December 18, 2021	6 Days
Darj	November 21, 2021	November 27, 2021	7 Days
Algorda	December 9, 2021	December 14, 2021	6 Days
Shwerif	December 4, 2021	December 8, 2021	5 Days
Brak Al Shati	December 27, 2021	January 1, 2022	6 Days





This project is funded by the European Union

Sebha	January 1, 2022	January 8, 2022	8 Days
Shargya	November 21, 2021	November 25, 2021	5 Days
Algatroun	December 20, 2021	December 25, 2021	6 Days
Murzuq	January 11, 2022	January 15, 2022	5 Days
Ribyana	November 25, 2021	November 28, 2021	3 Days
Alkufra	December 29, 2021	January 2, 2022	5 Days

During their field missions, the local consultants liaised with the local authorities, communities and civil society and were asked to produce specific reports for each municipality they visited. To be noted that, given the highly volatile social and political situation in Ubari and Murzuk, these two municipalities where also visited by a specialized consultant to assess the security situation and confirm if it could be considered suitable for carrying out the interventions.

The PMU staff in Tripoli has played a crucial role, successfully facilitating Action-wide coordination with the national and local counterparts, as well as AICS communication between short-term consultants and the local authorities. The coordination mechanism facilitated technical and operational coordination which will remain key to the efficient implementation and effective delivery of the overall Action. AICS regularly consulted with the Italian Embassy in Tripoli to ensure adequate liaison at the institutional level and coordinated with UNDP and UNICEF to ensure the streamlined identification of appropriate programmatic interventions, including facilities in need of rehabilitation, at the municipality level.

The Technical Secretariat organised five Technical Committee meetings respectively on 16 August, 9 September, 8 November 2021, and on 7 February and 2 March 2022 to define the steps and guide the identification of the specific interventions for each municipality, as well as the attribution of responsibilities to each implementing partner. The final list of interventions and the indicative budget by municipality was prepared by the Technical Secretariat and was reviewed and endorsed by the last Technical Committee meeting in March 2022. The list was then endorsed by the MoLG which approved and signed them in late March 2022 (see Annex 1).

The identified interventions aim at enhancing access and inclusiveness of basic services to improve living conditions for the most vulnerable populations, both Libyans and non-Libyans, in a conflict-sensitive manner. The target population will have the opportunity to access improved educational services and facilities, WASH services (including rehabilitation, equipment provision and maintenance of water and sewerage networks), and community centres (multi-purpose facilities) serving young people, women, ethnic minorities and migrants. At the same time, the interventions aim at contributing to social inclusion through social local actors' mobilization and awareness raising activities for the local population in the context of inclusive access to basic services. Awareness campaigns will be organized in target public facilities' catchment areas, tailoring activities according to the local context.

Moreover, trainings to different categories of actors involved in the delivery of basic services, such as municipal officers and staff from the local authorities and community services, will endow them with competences both at managerial and technical level. The selection of the staff to be trained will be based on the baseline competences and knowledge, the inclination to be a trainer for other local staff, their commitment to their work based on past performances by managerial staff of the facilities.

The table below summarizes the main findings of the governing bodies' meetings:



CUP: H99F18001050006



Meeting	Date	Main findings
Steering Committee n. 4	15 June 2021	Phase 2 geographic coverage,
		programmatic scope/sectors, budget and launching were
		approved
Technical Committee n. 12	16 August 2021	Updates on initial steps in the
		inception phase were shared
		Inception phase activity planning was discussed and approved: 1. municipality needs assessments 2. 3. formal kick-off visibility event 4. list of proposed interventions reviewed by TC and approved by SC
		Budget by municipality was discussed
Technical Committee n. 13	9 September 2021	Inception phase activity planning was updated
		Provisional budget by municipality was shared and discussed
		The preparation of the Kick-Off Event with mayors was discussed
Technical Committee n. 14	8 November 2021	Inception phase activity planning was updated
		The results of the Kick-Off Event with mayors were discussed
		Updates on the ongoing Municipality profiling were shared
		Updates on the consultations with local authorities and communities to identify priority interventions were shared and discussed





Technical Committee n. 15	7 Folymony 2022	The TC decided to shift the frequency of the joint reporting from monthly (JMUs) to quarterly (JQUs) The extension of the inception
Technical Committee n. 13	7 February 2022	phase till 31st of March was approved
		The provisional list of municipal interventions was shared and discussed
Technical Committee n. 16	2 March 2022	The final list of interventions and budget for each municipality was reviewed and approved by the TC
		The shift from inception to implementation of the Action was formally agreed
		Instead of holding a SC meeting, it was decided that all the Phase 2 inception documents would be sent by email to the SC members, including the final list of municipal interventions and budgets endorsed and signed by
		the Minister of Local Governance

Component 4 – Communications and Visibility

The activities financed under this component have an allocation of approx. EUR 405.000 budget – i.e. 2,5 % of the total budget and refer to the Communication and Visibility Plan approved by the EU and revised during the inception phase (see Annex 4).

During the reporting period, AICS PMU set up all preliminary operations to ensure the smooth continuity of programme documentation and effective information across Phase 1 and Phase 2. The key activities pursued during this period can be summarized as follows:

- 1. AICS continued coordinating the Joint Communications Initiative (JCI) established under Baladiyati Phase 1 to maximise the Action's visibility and outreach at both the national and international level. The JCI was designed in line with the EU communication and visibility guidelines and involves the communications focal points of AICS, UNDP and UNICEF. AICS maintained a fruitful relationship with the intended communications counterparts and led dialogue and joint efforts towards the programme's communication needs and objectives. The results of AICS' coordination work are reflected into the updated version of the Communications and Visibility Plan as Annex VI of the DoA;
- 2. Pre-existent online platforms and channels have been upgraded to ensure new functionality: in particular, the blog (www.eubaladiyati.org) has been improved with two thematic categories,





CUP: H99F18001050006

namely "sustainable cities" and "prosperous society", designed to host future content dedicated to Phase 2. In addition, new ad hoc tools have been developed: for example, the AICS Tunis' website has been improved with a landing page promoting actions and projects financed by the EU;

- 3. AICS ensured the production of two joint press releases that were issued i) for the Steering Committee meeting on 5 June 2021 ("EU-funded Baladiyati receives additional 26.2 million to strengthen cooperation in Libya' South"), as well as ii) for the Phase 2 Kick-Off event on 3 November 2021 ("The Ministry of Local Government, AICS, UNDP and UNICEF hosted the kick-off event of the EU-funded Baladiyati programme in 14 Municipalities in Southern Libya"), produced in Arabic and English, and adequately disseminated across international and Libyan media outlets;
- 4. AICS led the organization of the Kick-Off event of Phase 2, held in Tripoli on 3 November 2021, where institutional representatives met and discussed objectives and plans towards strengthened cooperation in the South of Libya. The communication items developed in said framework include: a joint press release alongside dissemination work; a set of Social Media posts for the Baladiyati-dedicated and AICS-specific channels; and a news item for the AICS Tunis website alongside a multimedia package (photo and video reportage).

The AICS communication officer worked closely with the PMU staff in Tunis and Tripoli as well as UNDP and UNICEF's communication counterparts to inform the communication strategy according to the needs and priorities that arose throughout the reporting period. As explained above, minor adjustments have been applied to the original Communication & Visibility Plan.

Component 5 – Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation activities financed under this component have an allocation of approx. EUR 370.000 budget - i.e. 2,3 % of the total budget.

In implementing the Action, AICS complies with the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework developed for the Trust Fund's North of Africa Window and is guided by the reporting requirements and tools developed by the EU Trust Fund. In addition, the PMU has set the objective to refine and optimize ad hoc indicators, targets and additional monitoring tools to accurately inform operations management and regular reporting within the framework of the Italian component.

Besides the annual and final reports, Quarterly Information Notes (QINs) are provided to the EU according to the format agreed by both parties during Baladiyati Phase 1, however AICS will engage with the EUTF newly contracted M&E consultant to improve the template for Phase 2 as appropriate. Two QINs were submitted by AICS during the reporting period, as QIN No. 3, covering the period January – March 2022, was not prepared to avoid duplication with the inception report and QIN No. 4, covering the period April – June 2022, will be submitted by July 2022.

Moreover, as requested by the governing bodies, AICS leads the production of the joint reports for circulation among the Libyan and international Action stakeholders. The Joint Monthly Updates (JMUs) used in RSSD Phase 1 will be replaced by the Joint Quarterly Updates (JQUs), in line with the decision taken by the Technical Committee n.14 in November 2021. A new template will be discussed in the next Technical Committee scheduled for August 2022.

Given the volatile political and security situation in Libya, primary data collection for the definition of indicators and targets and the development of a Baseline Study, an Endline Study and other monitoring tools to inform reporting to the EU cannot directly be collected by the AICS PMU international or local personnel. Moreover, the M&E tasks exceed the existing PMU team capacity, professional skills and





expertise. Therefore, AICS opted to outsource the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) services to a specialised Third-Party Monitoring provider.

Based on its performance during the Phase 1, AICS decided to outsource these services to Voluntas also in the Phase 2, as mentioned in the DoA. Thus, AICS launched a negotiated procedure with Voluntas which has been finalized with the signature of a service contract on 30 June 2022. This solution should drastically reduce the time gap for the mobilization of a TPM firm, foster the learning process, and ensure consistent methodology and reporting continuity.

The service contract with Voluntas will include the following tasks:

- a) Develop an M&E Plan, including refined logframe indicators and targets, guidelines for the grant beneficiaries' baseline studies and collection of lessons learned and recommendations from Phase 1;
- b) Conduct a Baseline and an End-line Study, aimed to assess the impact of the Programme. The data collection process will be carried out through one Key Informant Interview in each targeted municipality and 175 survey interviews with (potential) beneficiaries; at the end of each data collection process, baseline and end-line study reports will be produced based on the data analysis;
- c) Conduct eight (8) quarterly monitoring rounds, aimed to track inputs, activities and progress towards achievements of outcomes and impact and inform timely decision-making; each monitoring round will include a review of the AICS IPs reporting, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with the IPs and the municipal authorities, and site visits across the target areas; the site visits will be selected according to challenges identified during the implementation phase, while KIIs will serve to corroborate the desk review and to further investigate successes, challenges and lessons learned; at the end of each monitoring round, Quarterly Monitoring Reports will be produced and conveyed by Voluntas based on the data analysis.

AICS conducts also internal annual reviews and audits, in compliance with its own specific rules and regulations – including internal progress reporting every 6 months comprising of narrative and finance updates and forecasts. In the reporting period, two internal reports have been produced and submitted to AICS Headquarters.

Monitoring and Evaluation exercises will be also conducted by the EU Delegation to Libya for the whole Action through Third Party Monitoring (TPM) systems managed directly by the EU and implemented by the TPM provider Particip, which has the role of supervising the overall structure of Baladiyati. An intensive communication exchange has been conducted between Particip and the 3 implementing partners (AICS, UNDP and UNICEF) in order to fine-tune the EUTF monitoring system and reporting. Particip invited AICS to test a new e-system, an online platform called NOASYS, as a more agile and effective monitoring and reporting system for all key partners. Following the request by the European Union, the three implementing partners have begun intensive work on developing a common logical framework (Common Logframe) aimed at providing an integrated framework for monitoring activities across the entire Action. The Common Logframe aims to merge the three IPs' logframes and feed the EUTF Results Framework; the process is still ongoing.

As for the management of EU funds, AICS established an internal technical and financial monitoring system for the Action – including expenditure verification of its implementing partners' reports - and its own submission of annual and final reports to the EU - completed with relevant Management Declarations and duly certified by an external auditor.

The Tender procedure for the selection of an external auditing services provider has been launched in June and will be completed in August 2022. The objective of the audit is to enable the auditor to express





an opinion on the EU/AICS Contribution Agreement n. T05-EUTF-NOA-LY-13, according to art. 10.10 of the Financial Framework Partnership Agreement (FFPA).

7. Revised Logframe

The field assessment carried out during the inception phase enabled AICS to confirm the initial Logframe structure and revise some target quantification for *Output 1. Provision of basic services at local level enhanced* based on the indicative list of municipality-level interventions (see Annex 1: List of municipality individual budgets of municipalities).

Concerning Output 2. Income generating activities and/or entrepreneurship community initiatives are identified and developed, target quantification was adjusted according to the interventions to be implemented by CIHEAM Bari, as per the Description of the Sub-Action (DoSA) enclosed in the Sub-Delegation Agreement dossier signed by the parties.

Targets for *Output 1*. and *Output 2*. may be subjected to further updates according to the technical needs assessments that will be carried out by the INGOs once the grants are awarded for both basic services and agro-food components.

With regards to Output 3. Increased awareness of inclusive access to basic services and agro-food livelihoods opportunities among the general public in target municipalities), indicators and relevant targets related to the Communication and Visibility Component of the Programme were revised and adjusted according to the updated Communication and Visibility Plan (see Annex 4: Updated Communication and Visibility Plan). Indicators and relevant targets related to INGOs awareness activities under Output 3 will be determined once the INGOs finalise the technical needs assessments for both basic services and agro-food components.

In addition, the upcoming baseline studies – by the Third-Party Monitoring provider Voluntas, INGOs and CIHEAM Bari – will inform further updates of the current Logframe at Outcome level.

An updated version of the Logframe (see Annex 2: Updated Logframe) was attached to the inception report and submitted to the EU; the EU requested to revise it with the support and guidance of the EU TPM service provider, Particip, in order to add indicators specifically including migrants, IDPs and the other relevant vulnerable categories as well as to improve its vertical and horizontal logic. This revision process is currently ongoing.

8. Revised workplan

In order to provide an overview of the main activities planned over the remaining 24 months of the implementation period, AICS updated the Programme Workplan as attached to this report (see Annex 3) and according to the following considerations:

Component 1 - Support to municipalities (Basic services – Agricultural livelihoods)

- <u>Basic Services sub-component</u>: the field implementation is expected to be launched by the INGOs in January 2023, three months later than what was initially foreseen in the Work Plan attached to the DoA. The delay is in line with the extension of the inception phase requested by the three IPs and approved by the EU and does not impact the expected duration of the Programme.
- <u>Agricultural livelihoods sub</u>-component: the negotiation to sign the sub-delegation agreement with CIHEAM took longer than expected, as explained in Paragraph 6 "Activities and results achieved"; subsequently, the duration of the activities sub-delegated to CIHEAM BARI has been reduced from





33 to 27 months to not impact the expected duration of the Programme. The expected date for the launch of the activities on the field by the INGOs, instead, has not changed and it is in line with the initial Work Plan attached to the DoA.

Component 2 - Capacity building and technical assistance

AICS initially planned to launch the first training activities for the municipal staff at the end of the first year of the Programme but decided to postpone them to the next reporting period in order to align with the beginning of the interventions implemented by the INGOs, which include a capacity building component. This will ensure complementarity and avoid duplication.

Component 3 - Programme Coordination and Management

The inception phase was extended for three months, subsequently postponing the end of part of the activities under this component (namely the consultations with the municipalities and the field assessment as well as the endorsement and adoption of the interventions in the 14 target areas by the governing bodies). The rest of the activities were finalised in line with the Work Plan attached to the DoA, except for the recruitment/mobilization of additional human resources, which will be completed in the next reporting period as part of the PMU is still cost-shared between Baladiyati Phase 1 and 2.

Component 4 – Communications and Visibility

The activities under this component have been adjusted according to the updated Visibility and Communication Plan (see Annex 4), and the Work Plan revised accordingly. The activities related to the community services support & capacity building has been aligned with the beginning of the interventions implemented by the INGOs in the target municipalities.

Component 5 – Monitoring and Evaluation

As explained in the above Paragraph 6 "Activities and results achieved", during the inception phase AICS has developed the TPM service contract dossier and implemented a negotiated procedure with Voluntas Advisory Services. The service contract was signed on 30 June 2022 and the activities outsourced will start immediately after. The Work Plan has been modified accordingly.

9. Assumptions and risks

The Libyan context carries a substantial level of risk to the operational and delivery capacity of the Programme, as also indicated in the Logframe. Community needs for basic services are exacerbated by both the outbreak of violence and the dwindling capacity of the central government to support the municipalities. The subsequent need for stabilisation derives from both an objective decrease in service delivery capacity and the communities' perceptions of a decline in their access to services and economic opportunities. Moreover, supporting basic service facilities and local economic opportunities remain critical objectives and underscore the relevance of the programme to overarching stabilisation efforts.

Libya is experiencing a very fluid institutional political situation in which two governments are cohabiting, and neither side seems willing to step aside. The programme might be in the position to dialogue with both parties, but always in an apolitical and impartial manner, as the Action aims to stabilise the country and, above all, to improve the living conditions of the Libyan population, which has been suffering from a humanitarian crisis for years. Despite the complexity of the context and its challenges, conditions are in place at the local level for programme implementation and the delivery of expected results.



CUP: H99F18001050006



Risk analysis and contingency planning

AICS will continue working closely with the Embassy of Italy in Tripoli, EU, UN partners, and INGOs to monitor risks and changes in the socio-political arena likely to impact the operational environment and related contingency planning. This will allow for prompt adjustments to be made to affected interventions as necessary.

The risk analyses conducted during the inception phase confirmed the approved DoA assumptions and risk matrix as it covers relevant hazards, risk levels, assumptions and mitigation measures.

Challenge	Solution
Challenges related to ongoing tensions and COVID19 risks and mitigation measures	Adoption of adaptive and flexible staff working arrangements including precautionary measures for in-person meetings and the use of online tools, which have proved to be effective during RSSD Baladiyati Phase 1 and the first year of Phase 2 despite the electricity cuts. Those flexible approaches and remote management modalities will be used only when strictly necessary (due to access and/or security conditions, pandemic, etc.); in-person modalities will be the routine as they ensure a different impact and engagement of the actors involved.
Risk of escalated political instability in the region and possible changes of government	The political situation is continuously monitored, also in consultation with the Embassy of Italy. The programme activities have been identified considering the current political situation and anticipated developments. Mitigation measures have been designed to apply if the security situation deteriorates, such as: 1. INGOs consortia with local CSOs will be encouraged in order to ensure continuity in the implementation of municipal interventions in case the access in the target areas is restricted to INGOs staff; 2. The possibility of out of session decisions (approved by written procedure) by the Programme governing bodies will ensure the institutional decision-making in case in-person meetings become insecure and online tools are not working properly;





	3. Remote management modalities will be used when needed;
	4. Municipal focal points will monitor the situation and report about activities progress when field missions by the PMU in Tripoli are not feasible;
	5. Direct involvement and consultation of all key stakeholders at local level in an inclusive, conflict sensitive and DNH way will mitigate the risks of changes in the government.
	Democratic structures and principles are firmly supported in the framework of the EU's political dialogue with partner countries.
Access issues related to security	AICS continues to co-ordinate with the Embassy of Italy, United Nations partners and Libyan Authorities regarding security risks and to ensure a trustful relationship among stakeholders. Implementing partners will use third-party contracting where possible and appropriate.

AICS will continue working closely with the Embassy of Italy in Tripoli, EU representatives, UN partners and INGOs to monitor risks and changes likely to impact the operational environment and related contingency planning. This will allow for prompt adjustments to be made to affected interventions as necessary.

Embedding conflict sensitivity analysis

Given the challenging operational context, a conflict sensitive approach is required. Conflict analysis and sensitivity considerations will be monitored throughout the programme period by AICS international and Tripoli-based local staff in consultation with the Embassy of Italy. Due to the challenging operational environment, the vast geographical area, as well as the need to continuously mainstream cross-cutting issues (conflict sensitivity, human rights, gender, environment, etc.), project operations will be conducted at different levels. The PMU staff based in Tunis will be responsible for training, coaching and mentoring of recruited project staff on conflict sensitivity issues; security risk assessments; use of remote technical management tools and software; data collection, monitoring and reporting, technical-scientific, and cross-cutting issues, etc. The PMU staff in Tripoli will be responsible for participation in coordination fora and programme governance structures as well as remote management and administration of field staff and assets. Finally, at field level, particular attention will be paid to the training of Libyan technical staff, both for the specific technical aspects of the activities envisaged as well as to guarantee effective info sharing and coordination between the different operators of the Programme.

Conflict sensitivity principles are embedded in the interventions identified for implementation at the municipality level, starting with the initial consultation and identification process.





As the Programme moves into the implementation phase, AICS will ensure that both INGOs selected through CfPs and the sub-delegated entity CIHEAM Bari will integrate conflict sensitivity throughout their project cycle in particular identifying, monitoring and reporting conflict sensitivity risks and opportunities as part of context analysis and risk management – possibly, integrating communication between local communities and authorities/service providers. All proposed actions will be expected to address conflict-related risk management, including through consultations with local communities and other municipality-based stakeholders. The partners implementing this action will actively coordinate on conflict sensitivity initiatives, adhere to Conflict Sensitive Assistance (CSA) Principles for Libya and ensure that their staff have adequate knowledge and capacity on conflict sensitivity and communication - including dedicated focal persons.

AICS Third-Party Monitoring provider, Voluntas, will ensure full respect of the principle of Do Not Harm principles in their data collection analysis, which will be designed to respond to different target respondent and specially tailored to consider the different experiences of stakeholders and vulnerable groups based on the research and interviews. At the same time, a conflict sensitivity approach will be adopted which is adapted to the context of the country, region, and response. Voluntas will ensure the inclusion of crosscutting analysis and the incorporation of conflict sensitivity considerations and tools in programme design and implementation.

Moreover, AICS will continue to capitalise on the resources of the EU-funded Conflict Sensitivity Assistance Forum in Libya led by the Peaceful Change Initiative (PCi) that provides regular updates on conflict risk analysis and training courses for international and national staff.

Adapting to the crisis context

Typical of violent conflict-affected contexts, operations in Libya are affected by a fragmented and shifting stakeholder landscape. The complex and fragile political and institutional context, the possible scenarios of new crises, and the problems related to the access on the ground, the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the volatility of the prices of the local and international market could slow down the progress of Programme activities. Nevertheless, the previous experience gained during Phase 1, the lessons learned, the good relations with the counterparts, at central, local and international level, and the possibility of using flexible mechanisms to mitigate the risks (e.g., using flexible procedures) will lead to finding concrete solutions and adapting to the crisis situation in order to achieve the desired results.

Among the lessons learnt from Phase 1, it is important to mention:

- Focus on initial assessment Implementing partners have stressed the importance of having a
 thorough initial needs assessment closer to when grants are awarded. Due to the volatile
 situation in Libya, needs change very quickly, so the longer the partners wait to conduct the
 second assessment, the more the needs may shift, and the first analysis becomes less relevant;
- Ensure Ministry ownership of facilities After identifying and before targeting a facility for rehabilitation works, it is important to receive official confirmation from the relevant Ministry that they own the facility. This would avoid targeting a facility which may be used by nongovernmental entities or armed groups;
- Clear communication about parallel activities If there are any parallel activities carried out
 in different municipalities by the same donor (e.g. AICS/EU), this may lead to confusion among
 the municipalities who may not be aware that different projects with different objectives may





be running simultaneously. It is recommended to explain the scope of their work across the municipalities and the different partners, where possible, to avoid misunderstandings and to mitigate perceptions of exclusion;

- Managing expectations Both IPs and AICS should continue to clearly communicate project scope and constraints with municipalities and facilities to minimize unrealistic expectations. This should be done at an early stage and reminded during the project implementation. Important in this effort is also realistically assessing priorities and staff capacities in partnership with facilities:
- Local procurement and maintenance During disruptions to the international supply chain (e.g. due to COVID-19 sea or land blockages etc.), local procurement has proven more effective. Moreover, facility staff and managers emphasized that maintenance of the equipment after project implementation is completed is more effective when the vendors are local, since procuring additional or replacement items becomes more accessible;
- Immediate equipment training It is recommended that the staff is trained immediately after the equipment is delivered and installed. This will ensure that the items are directly operational and that the staff has the technical skills to follow up and solve any technical issues in due time;
- Visibility and awareness One of the factors positively contributing to the projects' success
 is the enhanced visibility of the implementing partners and AICS. Continuing to spread
 awareness about the services provided helps foster trust and credibility needed for fruitful
 cooperation and collaboration with local communities;
- Ensure institutionalized security monitoring Due to the complexity of the Libyan context, both politically and regarding security, continuous monitoring within each municipality should be ensured. It is recommended for all IPs to have institutionalized security monitoring mechanisms that can effectively assess the safety of intended operations;
- Foster local "investment" in projects As ownership and "buy-in" of a project's success is
 noted as a key step to fostering sustainability, all IPs should encourage communities and/or
 municipalities to feel invested in the project. This can also help ensure accountability for local
 authorities to maintain works post-completion;
- Contextually sensitive engagement When engaging in areas where intercommunal conflict
 or distrust is high, it is strongly recommended that a thorough stakeholder mapping is conducted
 by the Ips with the objective to mitigate any negative impacts from communicating with
 controversial or divisive figures. This is important to maintain secure and stable access where
 operating. Furthermore, ensuring neutrality in recruitment is recommended to help mitigate
 tribal pressures on project operations;
- Implement MSG meetings widely It is strongly recommended that IPs consider implementing regular multi-stakeholder groups (MSG) throughout the project life cycle to encourage engagement, generate and maintain communication pathways and clarify expectations. The inclusion of migrant community leaders as participants is also integral;
- Institutionalize impact assessments Impact assessments at least two to three months after
 project completion and handover should be institutionalized as part of the project process. Not
 only will this allow AICS to verify the continued functionality of equipment and maintenance
 works, but this will also allow AICS and the IPs to assess if cascade trainings are continuing to
 be conducted based on the materials provided to trainers.

The delay in the implementation of Phase 1 was mainly due to the recrudescence of the conflict at national level, which impacted on the accessibility on the ground and consequently on the work plan of the interventions. The concomitant outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic also affected the smooth implementation of the Programme activities disrupting the global supply chain and pushing AICS, to request a No-Cost Extension of their respective actions.





All the lessons learnt listed above will contribute to avoid major delays in the implementation of Baladiyati Phase 2, including prioritizing local procurement and promoting INGOs consortia with local CSOs that could ensure the continuity of interventions in case of violence escalation.

In addition, it should be noted that AICS is now well positioned in the South of the country with several initiatives underway and in pipeline. Therefore, Baladyiati activities will be implemented with a synergistic approach to harmonise interventions and avoid duplication, as explained in Paragraph 10 "Synergies created with other programmes".

Embedding security risk management

AICS currently relies on the security apparatus provided by the Italian Embassy in Tripoli to ensure safety and security of international personnel.

AICS remains committed to holding in-person meetings and events in Tripoli and other locations in Libya, with videoconferencing for remote participants within or out of Libya – unless security risk analyses recommend otherwise.

AICS implementation arrangements rely on partnerships with INGOs across all 14 municipalities. Therefore, security and access challenges relevant to these implementing actors are accounted for in the programme risk management. The number of INGOs with a widespread presence, access and operational capacity in the country is limited as they face several challenges with regards to registration and obtaining visas for their international staff. The assessment of proposals submitted by INGOs takes these considerations into account, alongside criteria that will assess the ability of INGOs to make adequate arrangements for the security of their staff. AICS will also need to assess INGOs' capacity to absorb large amounts of funding while effectively delivering on project results within a 12- to 14-month timeframe.

Furthermore, AICS will continuously monitor the political and security situation on the ground. The Action will be flexible and adaptable to any change or to better suit the needs of the most affected. Moreover, in the implementation of the Programme, AICS will seek to avoid contributing inadvertently to fuelling conflict drivers by sticking to recognized conflict sensitivity principles, such as by maintaining a close and dynamic understanding of the context in each target location, by keeping equality of participation across community divides, as well as by building into all activities adequate consultation and communication with the community at large.

10. Synergies created with other programmes

Coordination with external actors

AICS successfully collaborates with a number of stakeholders involved in the Libya response, namely Libyan authorities at the central and local levels as well as the UN partners, INGOs and CSOs playing a key role in the provision of access to basic social services for the most vulnerable parts of the population.

The Humanitarian Cluster system regularly updates needs and response, while providing a key coordination forum in the different sectors. AICS participates in the relevant Working Groups as well as in the following coordination platforms:

- OCHA Information Sharing monthly meeting;
- ACG-South (area coordination meeting Fezzan) monthly meetings, organised by OCHA
- Nexus Working Group Fezzan/Sebha bimonthly meetings, organised by WFP/RCO;





- INGOs Forum + Donors biannual meetings, organised by the INGOs Forum Coordinator;
- Libya Conflict Sensitive Assistance Forum, organised by Peaceful Change Initiative (Conflict Sensitivity Libya Team);
- IOM monthly updates.

Moreover, AICS proactively participates in the coordination meetings organised under the EU framework, including:

- the EU Development Councillors/Heads of cooperation monthly meetings organised by the European Delegation to Libya;
- the Technical Working Group of the EU Trust Fund Action 'Managing Mixed Migration Flows in Libya';
- the Good Humanitarian Donorship GHD meetings, organised by ECHO;
- the EU Implementers Forum on Local Governance.

In the reporting period, the PMU staff participated in the following international forums, meetings and workshops:

- 9 September 2021: EU Trust Fund for Africa North of Africa Monitoring and Learning System -PEER-TO-PEER EVENT;
- 20 September 2021: 10th Implementers` forum of the EU Support to the Libyan Municipalities with focus on Tawergha community in Libya;
- 6 October 2021: "Working Session on the Use of the EU Local Governance Platform"
- 18 November 2021: "EU TF Technical Working Group Meeting"
- 3-4 December 2021: Preparatory Meeting for the Local Governance Forum"
- 7 December 2021: "11th Implementer's Forum for EU assistance to Libyan municipalities"
- 30 May-1 June 2022: "Strategic planning & Strengthening Coordination in South Libya"

Following its participation in the two-day preparatory meeting held in December 2021, AICS actively participated in the second Local Governance Forum (LGF), which took place on 17-18 June 2022. The Forum builds on the achievements of the LGF I and aims at developing a three-year roadmap (2022 – 2025) to harmonize international partners and MoLG's ongoing efforts in decentralizing service delivery. The main objectives of the Forum were to:

- Present and discuss the decentralization and municipal empowerment roadmap;
- Discuss/coordinate the international support to the implementation of the roadmap at the short and longer terms;
- Present and discuss ways of coordination to monitor the implementation of the roadmap.

The "Italian development cooperation system" was well represented at the LGF, with representatives not only from AICS but also from Italian entities such as ANCI (the national association of Italian municipalities), CIHEAM Bari and representatives of the EU funded local governance projects implemented by Italian regions and provinces.

The MoLG confirmed its willingness to create a specific Executive Committee for the implementation of the roadmap with the main international actors that already support local governance in Libya: UE, GIZ, AICS, USAID, Expertise France and UNDP. Its first meeting was held on 23 June and formally launched this coordination platform and the related terms of reference. During the meeting, 6 thematic working groups related to local governance were established, namely on municipal competences, municipal fiscal resources, municipal capacities, municipal services, local economic development, local governance approaches.





Synergies with other initiatives carried out by Italy

Overall, the Italian Cooperation has allocated approximately EUR 66 million during 2016-2022 for Libya along two lines of intervention:

- 1. Humanitarian aid (with a total disbursement of EUR 48 million): for immediate assistance and protection of people in need and strengthening access to basic services;
- 2. Stabilization initiatives (for a total EUR 18 million) aimed at supporting municipalities, local authorities and communities to foster stability and promote sustainable development through a more long-term capacity building approach.

For the 2022 programming, an additional EUR 15 million have just been approved, of which EUR 4 million for humanitarian initiatives and EUR 11 million to promote stabilization and local development. At a geographical level, the Fezzan region is currently and will be in the near future the priority focus of AICS activities. At sectoral level, the priorities are Health, Water&Sanitation, Agriculture, Renewable Energy and Solid Waste Management, in line with those identified jointly by Libyan authorities and the international community.

The RSSD Baladiyati Phase 2 will create synergies and coordinate with the ongoing and planned initiatives funded by the Italian Cooperation in southern Libya through the periodical internal meetings organised by AICS Regional Office in Tunis, sharing information and avoiding overlapping among the interventions. The ongoing bilateral initiatives funded by AICS in southern Libya include:

- Capacity Building of municipality officials in Libya (EUR 1 million);
- PROSAR Project for food security and resilience of rural communities in Libya (EUR 3.5 million);
- GAIA Water Management Environmental Hygiene (EUR 1.3);
- SDE Social Dialogue for Environment (EUR 0.5 million);
- Improving the use of Water Resources in Libya (EUR 2.1 million);
- Clean energy for a sustainable access to basic services (EUR 2.3 million);
- SESA Energetic sustainability for Accessible Health for Southern Libya population (EUR 1 million);
- Support to Pediatric Hospitals (EUR 3.5 million);
- Emergency program to improve safe access to primary health care and protection services for the most vulnerable groups (EUR 2 million).

ANNEXES

Annex I - List of interventions and budgets by municipality

Annex II - Updated Logframe

Annex III - Updated Work plan

Annex IV - Updated Communication and Visibility Plan

Annex V – Financial Report